

REVELATION 19:11-21

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we will finish up this chapter this evening.

As we saw as we opened up this chapter, there is praise unto God for His righteous judgment upon the earth dwellers, those who are in rebellion against Him.

All of heaven is rejoicing as those in this world were mourning all that they lost, all that they put their hope in, the material things of this world and not the Lord.

We then moved to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and we said that this will take place during the Millennial reign of Christ and not only will the bride or the church be there, but so too will the Old Testament saints, those who were martyred for their faith in Christ during the Tribulation Period and those who made it through the Tribulation Period and are believers. Even John the Baptist will be there.

Remember what we read in Revelation 19:9, **“Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”” . . .**

Keep in mind that the bride is not called to the wedding, she does not need an invitation, she is the bride. And thus, this is speaking of others who will be invited to this feast!

As we move on tonight in Revelation chapter 19, we are going to see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Let me share this with you and then I will expound a little more on that.

We are told,

A century ago most people believed that history was progressing inexorably toward a man-made utopia. The Industrial Revolution, the march of scientific discovery, and the increasing pace of social reform seemed to augur nothing but brighter days ahead.

Today, however, two world wars; innumerable regional, civil, and national wars; countless acts of terrorism and senseless violence; and the nearly complete collapse of moral values make such rosy optimism seem quaintly naive.

The Bible teaches that things will be wonderfully better, but only after they become unimaginably worse. There is only one solution for the world's problems: the return of its true King, the Lord Jesus Christ, to establish absolute monarchy and unilateral authority in His earthly kingdom. Only under His rule will there be peace instead of war, justice instead of inequity, and righteousness instead of wickedness.

But that glorious event will not occur without fierce opposition from Satan, his demon hordes, and the world of wicked sinners.

The Tribulation, the seven-year period immediately before Christ's return, will see the greatest of all human world empires, headed by the evil genius known as Antichrist.

The earth will be infested with demons, those who have been here all along, those cast from heaven with Satan (12:9), and those released from imprisonment during the Tribulation (9:1-10,14-20).

The Tribulation will also be a time of escalating human wickedness, despite the unprecedented outpouring of God's wrath in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

Stubbornly hardening their hearts against the truth of the gospel, people even then will obstinately refuse to repent (9:20-21; 16:9,11). Even the destruction of Antichrist's magnificent capital city of Babylon (chaps. 17-18) will provoke loud laments, but no repentance.

But while chaos and turmoil reigns on earth during the Tribulation, the raptured church will be presented in heaven. The church, the bride of the Lamb, will be eagerly awaiting the marriage supper of the Lamb in the millennial earth (19:7).

But before that wonderful celebration can take place, the warrior King must win the final battle. The forces of heaven and hell will meet in the climactic slaughter of human history, the Battle of Armageddon. At that final holocaust, man's day will end, all of Christ's foes will be vanquished, and His kingdom will be established.

- John MacArthur, Revelation 19:11-13

That is what is ahead for us. This wedding in heaven and then, on earth the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus is coming back whether people believe it or not!

Let me give you this illustration to show you what I mean. It is a story of a man's promise to return home. This is how it goes,

When I left Australia years ago, I said to my mother, "Mother, if God spares me, I will come back to see you."

For years she waited. Had anyone said to her, "Mrs. Talbot, what are you waiting for?" She would have said, "My boy in America is coming back."

And suppose this person said to her, "Coming back? What do you mean? Surely you don't expect a personal, visible, actual coming!"

"Yes," she would have replied, "that's the way he is coming."

Possible her friend might have said, “Did you ever get letters from Him? Do you ever receive gifts? Well, that is what he meant - he is coming in all these things.”

My mother would have answered, “Why, that isn’t what he meant, for he said he would come back!”

Some years afterward, I did cross the ocean, walked down the gangplank from the steamer, and said, “Mother, here I am.”

- L. T. Talbot

The Lord has promised us that He is going to return, and He is going to set up His Kingdom on this earth and rule and reign for one-thousand years and after that we will see a new heaven and a new earth created and a new Jerusalem and we will dwell with the Lord forever. It is the eternal state!

Now, ever since Revelation chapter 6, we have been waiting for the physical return of Jesus Christ to this earth, and here in chapter 19 we will see that glorious event take place. I am not sure why but some like to spiritualize this, the return of Jesus, but that is not what the Scriptures say.

In Revelation 1:7 we are told, “**Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.**”

You see, all will see His coming, His physical, bodily return.

Also, Jesus said in Matthew 24:27-30, **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

Thus, that is what we will be looking at this evening, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His destruction of the wicked.

With that as our introduction, let’s pick up our study this evening in Revelation chapter 19 beginning in verse 11 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

REVELATION 19

VERSE 11

Let me start out by saying this. Only in the book of Revelation do we see a door open in heaven.

The first time we see this is in Revelation 4:1, where we are told, **“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’”**

This, of course, is speaking of the Rapture of the church as the door is opened and we are called home!

And here in Revelation chapter 19 we see another door opened and this is speaking of the return of Jesus Christ with His bride, the church!

You see, the church has been missing from the earth starting in Revelation 4:1 and now the church is going to reappear with the Lord, and we will see that in a minute, when we get to Revelation 19:14.

Next, we have to deal with this rider on the white horse, because some confuse it with the rider on the white horse back in Revelation 6:2.

There is a big difference between the two. Back in Revelation 6:2 this is the Antichrist who comes on the scene and here, in Revelation 19:11 it is Jesus Christ!

How can I be so sure?

Because the Antichrist is wearing a crown or *STEPHANOS* in the Greek and that is a victor's crown, not the crown of a king!

Also, the Antichrist is holding a bow and in Revelation we see Jesus with a sword!

And here is the good news. All those who have prayed "***Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven***" that prayer is going to be answered!

Now I do realize that some churches don't believe in the Second Coming of Jesus, and they are not looking for His return.

I am not sure why they feel that way because for every one time that the first coming is mentioned in the Scriptures, the second coming is mentioned eight times!

Thus, He came the first time, and we can be sure He is coming again, it is what the Scriptures teach us!

I know I am dating myself here but remember in the movie *The Terminator* with Arnold Schwarzenegger and his famous line, "***I'll be back!***"

Well, he was not the first to say it, the Lord did, and the Lord is coming back. What He has promised He is going to bring to pass very quickly!

Remember what we read in Matthew 24:27-30, we are told of this, **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

We have seen enough evil, it is time for the good guy on the white horse to ride onto the scene, you might say, and put things in order. And that is exactly what is going to happen, Jesus is coming in on a white horse!

When Jesus came the first time, what was He riding?

He came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and back then, it spoke that He was coming in peace. He came to bring salvation to every person, the free gift that is found in Jesus. It is a grace gift; we don't deserve it.

But when He comes again, He is riding a white horse and that means He is coming as a conqueror to make war. And that is exactly what we see!

We don't tend to think much about Jesus making war, but that is exactly what we have seen here in Revelation. But what He does is righteous, it is fair, and He is just giving man what is his due!

One writer put it like this, *“The Lord is a man of war! In righteousness He judges and makes war. The judging has been going on throughout the breaking of the seals, the blowing of the trumpets, and the pouring out of the bowls. Now He makes war. He, who for long centuries has endured patiently the scoffing’s, the insults, the bad manners of men; who for ages has contemplated Calvary and all that it displayed of human hatred and contempt; and who, through the millennia has made peace through the blood of that cross, now makes war over that blood.”* (Exploring Revelation, rev. ed. [Chicago: Moody, 1987; reprint, Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux, 1991], 232)

Now let’s deal with what we are told about Jesus here in Revelation chapter 19.

First of all, we are told that Jesus is **“faithful,”** as Hebrews 10:23 tells us, **“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”**

You see, we can trust in the Lord, for what He has said He will do!

He is also **“true.”** He is no counterfeit. He is the real thing!

It is as I John 5:20 tells us, **“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”**

So the genuine article, the one we trust in, Jesus Christ is coming back!

Why is He coming back?

John tells us that **“... in righteousness He judges and makes war.”**

In other words, Jesus is coming back to righteously judge the people and fight against those who are in rebellion against Him. Jesus is coming to judge and make war, but Torrance makes these interesting comments regarding the state of the world.

He wrote, *“The world like a complacent, reasonable religion, and so it is always ready to serve some pale Galilean image of Jesus, some meager anemic Messiah, and to give him a moderate rational homage.”*

How true that is.

The reality though, is as Walvoord tells us, *“All of these passages point to the sad conclusion that in the Day of Judgment it is too late for men to expect the mercy of God. There is nothing more inflexible than divine judgment where grace has been spurned. The scene of awful judgment which comes from this background is in flat contradiction of the modern point of view that God is dominated entirely by His attribute of love.”*

Make no mistake about it, the righteous Judge is coming!

And as many like to deny it, one writer wrote, *“Any view of God which eliminates judgment and his hatred of sin in the interest of an emasculated doctrine of sentimental affection finds no support in the strong and virile realism of the Apocalypse.”* (Mounce)

As we read on we get more of a description of Him.

VERSE 12

With these eyes of fire, I believe we are seeing the Lord knowing all things or that He alone is omniscient.

And as the Lord see's and knows all things, He will then Judge accordingly.

And make no mistake about it, the Lord does see all, as Hebrews 4:13 tells us, **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

Not only do we see His eyes of fire, but we also see that He has many crowns upon His head. This is not a victor's crown or a *STEPHANOS*, but this is a crown of royalty, a crown of authority or in the Greek, *DIADEMA!*

And I think it speaks of His authority. In other words, all authority belongs to Him!

Remember what we are told in Psalm 2 as God the Father is speaking to Jesus, "**I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'**" Psalm 2:7-9.

When Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, we see Satan tempt Him. One of the things He tempted Jesus with was that he would give Jesus all the Kingdoms of the world.

And the only thing he was asking Jesus is that He would bow down and worship him, worship Satan. And in doing that, He would not go to the cross.

And Jesus said to Satan, "**. . . 'Away with you Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.'**"

And now we see God the Father giving Jesus all the Kingdoms of the world, to rule and reign from the throne of David.

Now what is His name that He has that no one knows?

I don't know, nor am I going to be foolish to even spend any time trying to figure it out.

The Lord said that He alone knows it and I will leave it at that.

Understand that there are some things about God we don't fully know, we don't fully understand, but one day, when we go to be with Him, it shall be clear.

That is Paul's point in I Corinthians 13:12, "**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.**"

Also, we are told in Deuteronomy 29:29, "**The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**"

Instead of trying to figure out what God says we will not know, let's focus on what God has told us and live accordingly!

VERSE 13

As we have seen in our studies in Revelation, the armies of the world will gather together to fight against the Lord from Megiddo to Bozrah in the south, some 184 miles.

And we can read of this in Isaiah 63:1-6, where once again we are given a graphic description of the Lord's return and His judgment of those who are fighting against Him.

This is what we are told, "**Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? 'I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.'** Why is Your apparel red, and **Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 'I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained**

Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.”

And we will get more graphic details of this as we conclude this chapter here in Revelation. But remember what we are told in Revelation 14:20, **“And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.”**

It is the blood of the wicked that will be splattered upon the Lord’s garments!

Now who is this that comes riding in on a white horse to judge a Christ rejecting world?

We have already said that this was none other than Jesus Christ, but here is the clincher.

He is called, **“The Word of God.”**

In John 1:1, 14 we are told, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Obviously, John is speaking of Jesus being the Word and that the Word became flesh, the Incarnation, to go to the cross of Calvary and pay in full the penalty for our sins!

And just as Jesus spoke the world into existence, here we will see Him speak many armies out of existence! He is almighty God!

Now we will read of the armies who come with Jesus to this battle, not to fight, the Lord does that, but to be with Him.

VERSE 14

Yes, the Lord is coming back, but He is not coming back alone. He will be accompanied by **“the armies in heaven.”**

Who are these armies in heaven that are coming with the Lord?

The first group that is coming with the Lord is His Bride. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:4, **“When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

Now is that speaking of the Rapture?

I believe it is, but once we are with the Lord we will always be with the Lord. So if He is returning to the earth, we are with Him!

There are those Tribulation saints who were martyred for their faith in Christ, they will be coming with the Lord.

Another group and one that is often missed, are the Old Testament saints, who will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation Period, and I believe are coming with the Lord.

Remember what Daniel 12:1-2 says, **“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.”**

And lastly, I believe the holy Angels will accompany the Lord into this battle. We are told in Matthew 25:31, **“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”**

Four groups of people will accompany the Lord when He returns to do battle with the inhabitants of the earth, the earth dwellers or the unsaved who are fighting against Him. We have the bride or the church, those who were martyred for their faith in Christ during the Tribulation Period, the Old Testament saints and the Holy angels!

What I want you to notice here is that this army is unarmed, and, as we will see, Jesus is the only one who will do battle and He is armed with the Sword of the Spirit! He alone will destroy these enemies.

We see this in Jude 1:14-15 where we are told, **“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”**

Yes, He is coming with these armies, but He alone will do battle. In Revelation 17:14 we are told, **“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”**

The Lord will not need our help in this battle, He is God!

And we will see that as we read on.

VERSES 15-16

As I have said, it is the Lord alone who will fight against these armies of the world.

But when you think about it, how foolish can you be to think you can actually fight against God and win!

Psalm 2 speaks of this, how the nations have gathered together to fight against the Lord and His Anointed. And God sits in heaven and laughs at their foolishness.

Make no mistake about it, Jesus will sit upon the throne of David, He will rule the nations one day, and He will pour out His judgment upon all those who reject Him.

It is as Psalm 2:12 says, **“Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”**

In other words, make peace with God through Jesus Christ before it is too late!

Now we speak of the battle of Armageddon, but it is really not a battle at all.

The Lord judges them by the sword, a long broad sword that comes out of His mouth. In the Greek it is called a RHOMPHAIA.

Now some have tried to paint a picture of this, and it is pretty weird. I don't believe for a second that this is speaking of a literal sword coming out of His mouth!

Then what is it speaking of?

The Scriptures tell us that, **“... the sword of the Spirit ... is the word of God.”**
Ephesians 6:17.

What that is saying then is that the armies of the world are going to be judged by the Word of God.

It is as Isaiah 11:4 says, **“But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.”**

Again, this is just speaking of the power of His Word and these wicked people will be judged by the Word of God and they will be destroyed. As one writer put it, ***“Christ conquers by the power of His Word”*** (Johnson).

With His words Jesus created the universe and He holds all things together and with that same power He will destroy His enemies!

Keep in mind that there will be believers who come through the seven-year Tribulation Period, and they will be spared and enter into the Kingdom Age with the Lord.

But those who have taken the mark of the beast, worshiped the Antichrist and Satan, rejecting Jesus, they will be destroyed. And we will see that the rest will be judged when the Lord separates the sheep from the goats or the saved from the unsaved.

The unsaved, the goats, will be cast out awaiting the Great White Throne Judgement that takes place at the end of the millennial reign of Christ.

And, like I have said, the saved or believers, the sheep will enter into the Kingdom Age!

We also see that in the Kingdom Age the Lord will rule with a rod of iron.

The word “rule” can also speak of shepherd.

And thus, I believe what we see here is the Lord using the shepherd’s rod of correction upon all those who get out of line in the Kingdom Age. Rebellion will not be tolerated. Lawlessness will be dealt with immediately.

Righteousness will fill the land. And thus, His rule will be fair, it will be right!

One writer put it like this,

The stern, swift judgment that marks the onset of Christ’s kingdom will be the pattern of His rule throughout the Millennium. During His thousand-year reign, He will rule the nations with a rod of iron (cf. 12:5; Ps. 2:8–9); He will swiftly judge all sin and instantly put down any rebellion.

All people will be required to conform to His law or face immediate judgment. Using the same imagery of ruling with a rod of iron, Jesus promised that believers would rule under Him in the kingdom: “He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father” (2:26–27).”

- John MacArthur, Revelation 19:15-16

And lastly, we see that He is going to tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God, which is just speaking of total judgment.

And embroidered on His robe and tattooed on His thigh is ***KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*** who has come to rule forevermore!

I believe that this is expressing His sovereign triumph over all foes and His absolute rule in His soon to be established Kingdom.

And now we come to the battle of Armageddon!

VERSES 17-18

Here we see that the armies of the Antichrist have joined together, in the Valley of Megiddo, to fight against the Lord and His anointed, and no matter what kind of weapons they have, it is a futile effort on their part. They will be destroyed! (Psalm 2:1-3)

And in the end, those who came to fight against the Lord, will be a supper for the scavenger birds. This is going to be a slaughter!

Commentator Joseph Seiss writes about this awful scene. He wrote,

This tells already an awful story. It tells of the greatest of men made food for the vultures; - of kings and leaders, strong and confident, devoured on the field, with no one to bury them; - of those who thought to conquer Heaven's anointed King rendered helpless even against the timid birds; - of vaunting gods of nature turned into its cast off and most dishonored dregs.

And what is thus for intimated soon becomes reality. The Great Conqueror bows the heavens and comes down. He rides upon the cherub horse and flies upon the wings of the wind.

Smoke goes up from his nostrils, and devouring fire out of his mouth. He moves amid storms and darkness, from which the lightnings hurl their bolts, and hailstones mingle with the fire. He roars out of Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, till the heavens and the earth shake.

He dashes forth in the fury of his incensed greatness amid clouds, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun frowns. The day is neither light nor dark. The mountains melt and cleave asunder at his presence. The hills bound from their seats and skip like lambs. The waters are dislodged from their channels. The sea rolls back with howling trepidation. The sky is rent and folds upon itself like a collapsed tent.

It is the day for executing an armed world, - a world in covenant with Hell to overthrow the authority and throne of God, - and everything in terrified Nature joins to signalize the deserved vengeance.

- Joseph Seiss, The Apocalypse, p. 441

These birds are being called to feast upon all these dead corpses that have fallen in battle. And it is not a pretty picture, nor is it intended to be. God wants you to realize the reality of your decision against Him.

Remember last time I said that you can either come to the marriage supper of the Lamb or you can be supper for the birds of the air!

Instead of seeing what is on the menu, you will be on the menu!

VERSES 19-20

Some may be wondering how long this battle lasts.

Joel 1:15 tells us, “**Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty.**”

Joel seems to be saying that this destruction will take a day, it is very short and probably less than a day especially when you see how God created the heavens and the earth and He did not even need that much time!

Now think about this for a minute. Man has assembled his greatest forces, with his greatest weapons of war, with millions upon millions of soldiers, and it is over in a short time, they are defeated. That is the best man can do against Almighty God!

Thus, don't fight against God, you will not win!

Ray Stedman sums it up like this for us. He wrote,

It is almost incredible, is it not, that when Jesus reveals himself, and every eye sees him, that these leaders of the nations actually attempt to assault and attack the Lord himself: “They gather to make war against the Lord and his armies.”

But it is an unequal contest. The beast and the prophet are immediately captured and thrown into the lake of fire, which in Chapters 21 and 22 is called “the second death.”

It is a terrible symbol of eternal torment, a fire, an inward torment that burns on and on and never ends.

And the rest, we are told, are killed by the Word of God - not by a physical weapon but by the simple word spoken.

- bit.ly/34NoyHq

Make no mistake about it, the Antichrist, who thought he was so powerful and the false prophet, who deceived the earth dwellers to follow after the Antichrist, are captured.

And they are placed in the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone. It is the final place of torment, after Hades, for all those who have rejected Jesus Christ, also called Outer Darkness.

And the Antichrist and the false prophet will be the first to experience Gehenna.

Jesus used the symbolism of Gehenna to describe the place of everlasting punishment.

In Mark 9:43 Jesus said, **“It is better for you to enter into life maimed, than having two hands, to go to Gehenna into the fire that shall never be quenched.”**

And in Luke 12:5 we are told, **“Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into Gehenna.”**

As Don Stewart tells us, *“Gehenna, or the valley of Hinnom, is an actual valley in the city of Jerusalem. In Israel's past, it was used as a place of child sacrifice. From the reign of Josiah onward, it was used as a garbage dump where the fires burned the refuse continuously. Jesus used it as an illustration of the final judgment of the wicked. Gehenna is the permanent place where both the body and the soul are reunited to spend eternity apart from God. It is located outside the new Jerusalem, the place where believers will be with the Lord.”*

Now, after the Millennial Reign of Christ, after the 1,000 years, the Great White Throne Judgment will be set-up and all those who have rejected Christ will be judged, and they will move from Hades to outer darkness, Gehenna, along with Satan.

And we will see that in Revelation chapter 20.

Now some get upset, offended when you talk about judgment, when you talk about hellfire and damnation. But understand this, Jesus spent more time warning about Hell than any other Bible writer. In fact, more than all the Bible writers combined!

You see, God wants you to make the right choice and know the consequences of the choice you make.

Now let me touch on this. Today, when an unbeliever dies, what happens to him?

His spirit and soul go to a place called Hades, which means *“the unseen world”* or really the realm of the dead!

What happens to believers when they die?

Their spirit and soul are immediately in the presence of God!

We see that in II Corinthians 5:6-8, where we are told, **“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”**

And in Philippians 1:19-23 we are told, **“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”**

You see, there is no soul sleep or annihilation. You are either with the Lord or you are apart from the Lord waiting the final judgment at the Great White Throne Judgment!

The same inspired Word of God which so wonderfully describes the grace of God and the salvation which is available to all who believe is equally plain about the judgment of all who reject the grace of God.

The Bible is clear that judgment awaits the wicked, and the Second Coming of Christ is the occasion for a worldwide judgment unparalleled in Scripture since the time of Noah’s flood.

And look at the conclusion of this chapter.

VERSE 21

Millions upon millions will die here, but not because they were not sufficiently warned.

In fact, in Revelation chapter 14 we see an angel flying in the midst of heaven warning people to worship God, the true God, to give Him the glory. He speaks forth the Gospel message!

So man does not have an excuse.

Understand that God has created us for life, to bring Him pleasure, and not for death and the Lake of Fire. The only reason you will go there is because you chose to.

And it is after this battle that Jesus Christ will set-up His Kingdom and rule and reign from the throne of David for 1,000 years. And what a glorious day that will be.

Of this carnage, John Phillips writes:

Then suddenly it will all be over. In fact, there will be no war at all, in the sense that we think of war. There will be just a word spoken from Him who sits astride the great white horse.

Once he spoke a word to a fig tree, and it withered away.

Once He spoke a word to howling winds and heaving waves, and the storm clouds vanished and the waves fell still.

Once He spoke to a legion of demons bursting at the seams of a poor man's soul, and instantly they fled.

Now he speaks a word, and the war is over. The blasphemous, loud-mouthed Beast is stricken where he stands. The false prophet, the miracle-working windbag from the pit is punctured and still.

The pair of them are bundled up and hurled headlong into the everlasting flames.

Another word, and the panic-stricken armies reel and stagger and fall down dead.

Field marshals and generals, admirals and air commanders, soldiers and sailors, rank and file, one and all – they fall. And the vultures descend and cover the scene.

- John Phillips, Exploring Revelation, p. 236

Now, of this Day of the Lord, we are told in Zephaniah 1:14-18, **“The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse. Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD’s wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.”**

This is what is on the horizon for those that don’t know the Lord!

Barnhouse said, *“The battle of Armageddon is the laughter of God against the violence of man’s arrogance.”*

How true that is!

Now I do understand that some laugh at this idea of the Lord returning, as I have said.

Many will mock us and do mock us for believing this. There are even those who go to church, and yet deny the return of the Lord. The thing is, you don’t have to believe me, but the Scriptures are very clear of this idea of the Lord’s return.

And since the Lord is faithful and true, I am going to believe what He has said over what man has said. God has never been wrong, nor will He ever be wrong, but man has, and not just once, but millions and billions of times.

Listen carefully to this if you doubt the Lord's return because I believe it is very important.

Paul told Titus, a young pastor in Crete, "**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**" Titus 2:13-15.

We need to be looking for His return, it is our hope, and truly it is the only hope for this world!

Understand this,

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of the Second Coming of Christ.

There are 1,845 references to it in the Old Testament, and a total of seventeen Old Testament books give it prominence.

Of the 260 chapters in the entire New Testament, there are 318 references to the Second Coming, or one out of 30 verses.

Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event.

The four missing books include three which are single-chapter letters written to individual persons on a particular subject, and the fourth is Galatians which does imply Christ's coming again.

For every prophecy on the First Coming of Christ, there are 8 on Christ's Second Coming.

- Source Unknown

As I close this evening, listen to these words from one writer. He wrote,

These sobering truths serve as a warning to unbelievers to repent (2 Peter 3:9), and also to stimulate believers to godly living (2 Peter 3:11). "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts" (Rom 13:12-14).

- John MacArthur, Revelation 19:17-21

Folks, the Lord is coming back first for His Bride, the church, to meet her in the air, we call that the Rapture of the church.

And then with His Bride to establish His Kingdom on the earth.

I pray that you join the family of God so you can be part of His Kingdom if you are not part of it now, or you will end up in Gehenna or outer darkness, where there is no light at all, for eternity.

The choice is yours!

And I will close with this. Would you rather have dinner with the Lord at the marriage supper of the Lamb or be dinner for the birds of the earth?

Two meals are being prepared, which one of them do you want to partake of?